

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method for preserving an active agent comprising the steps of:
preparing a preservation sample by dissolving or suspending ~~dissolving/suspending~~ an active agent in a solution of a stabilising agent;
subjecting the preservation sample to such temperature and pressure conditions so that the preservation sample loses solvent by evaporation, without freezing or bubbling involved in foam formation, to form a viscous liquid.
2. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:
further subjecting the preservation sample to such temperature and pressure conditions so that the viscous liquid dries to form a highly viscous liquid.
3. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the pressure is reduced to 20 mbars or below during step b).
4. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1-3 wherein the temperature external to the preservation sample is between 5°C and 37°C during step b).
5. (Currently amended): The method of claim 2-4 wherein the temperature external to the preservation sample is between 5°C and 37°C during step c).
6. (Currently amended): The method of claim 2-5 wherein the temperature external to the preservation sample is higher during step c) than it is in step b).
7. (Original): The method of claim 6 wherein the temperature external to the preservation sample is increased to above 20°C during step c).

8. (Currently amended): The method of claim 2-7 wherein the pressure is reduced in step c) compared to the pressure during step b).

9. (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the pressure is reduced to 1mbar or below during step c).

10. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1-9 wherein step b) is completed in less than 4 hours.

11. (Currently amended): The method of claim 2-10 wherein steps b) and c) are completed in less than 12 hours.

12. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1-11 wherein the stabilising agent comprises a glass forming polyol, selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of glucose, maltulose, iso-maltulose, lactulose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, sorbitol, iso-maltose, maltitol, lactitol, palatinit, trehalose, raffinose, stachyose, melezitose and dextran.

13. (Original): The method of claim 12 wherein the stabilising agent is sucrose.

14. (Currently amended): The method of claim 12-13 wherein the concentration of stabilising agent is less than 15%.

15. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1-14 wherein the preservation sample comprises phenol red.

16. (Currently amended): The method of claims 1-15 wherein the preservation sample is dried in a container with a solvent repellent interior surface.

17. (Currently amended): The method of claims 1-16 wherein the active agent comprises a molecule selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of protein, peptide, amino acid, polynucleotide, oligonucleotide, polysaccharide, oligosaccharide, polysaccharide-protein conjugate and oligosaccharide-protein conjugate.

18. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1-~~16~~ wherein the active agent comprises a biological system selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of cells, subcellular compositions, bacteria, viruses, virus components and virus like particles.

19. (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein the active agent comprises IPV (inactivated polio virus).

20. (Currently amended): The method of claim 18-~~19~~ wherein the active agent comprises ~~Hib~~ (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b) polysaccharide or oligosaccharide.

21. (Currently amended): The method of claim 18-~~20~~ wherein the active agent comprises *Neisseria meningitidis* C polysaccharide or oligosaccharide.

22. (Currently amended): The method of claims 1-~~21~~ wherein the active agent comprises a vaccine.

23. (Original): A highly viscous liquid comprising an active agent wherein the antigenicity or activity of the active agent is preserved.

24. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23 obtained ~~obtainable~~ by the method of claims 1-~~22~~.

25. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23 ~~or 24~~ comprising a glass forming polyol selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of glucose, maltulose, iso-maltulose, lactulose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, sorbitol, iso-maltose, maltitol, lactitol, palatinit, trehalose, raffinose, stachyose, melezitose and dextran.

26. (Original): The highly viscous liquid of claim 25 wherein the glass forming polyol is sucrose.

27. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23-~~26~~ wherein the active agent comprises comprises a molecule selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of protein, peptide, amino acid, polynucleotide, oligonucleotide, polysaccharide, oligosaccharide, polysaccharide-protein conjugate and oligosaccharide-protein conjugate.

28. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23-~~27~~ wherein the active agent comprises a biological system selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of cells, subcellular compositions, bacteria, viruses, virus components and virus like particles.

29. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23-~~28~~ wherein the active agent comprises a vaccine.

30. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23-~~29~~ wherein the active agent comprises IPV.

31. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23-~~30~~ wherein the active agent comprises a bacterial polysaccharide or oligosaccharide.

32. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 31 wherein the active agent comprises ~~Hib~~ (*Haemophilus influenzae* b) polysaccharide or oligosaccharide, preferably conjugated to a carrier protein.

33. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23-~~32~~ wherein the active agent comprises *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C polysaccharide or oligosaccharide, preferably conjugated to a carrier protein.

34. (Currently amended): The highly viscous liquid of claim 23-~~33~~ held within a container with a solvent repellent interior surface.

35. (Currently amended): An immunogenic composition or vaccine comprising the highly viscous liquid of claim 23-24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

36. (Currently amended): A method of making a vaccine comprising the step of reconstituting the highly viscous liquid of claim 23-35 in an aqueous solution.

37. (Currently amended): The method of claim 36 wherein the aqueous solution comprises acellular or whole cell Diphtheria antigen, Tetanus antigen and Pertussis antigens ~~(acellular or whole cell)~~.

38. (Original): The method of claim 37 where the DTP vaccine is at least in part adjuvanted with aluminium hydroxide.

39. (Currently amended): A kit comprising the highly viscous liquid of claims 23-34 held in a first container and a liquid vaccine component in a second container.